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Where The Marines Fought In France

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Introduction

THE Fourth Brigade of United States Marines was composed of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion. It and the Third Brigade of the United States Infantry formed the infantry of the famous Second Division of regulars which, at different times, was used as an element of various French and American Corps and Armies.

From the middle of March, 1918, to about the middle of May, 1918, the Marines occupied a quiet sector on the Verdun front.

Early in June, 1918, the point of the Chateau-Thierry salient was reaching out for Paris and the Second Division (including the Marines) was hurriedly thrown across the path of the quickly-advancing Boche northwest of Chateau-Thierry on the Marne River, and near that town. The fighting between May 31 and June 5, 1918, is officially designated as the Aisne Defensive, but as far as the Marines and the other elements of the Second Division were concerned it was one continuous and stubborn battle on the offensive until July 1, 1918; the Marine Brigade capturing Hill 142 and Bouresches on June 6, 1918, and finally clearing Belleau Wood, re-named the *Bois de la Brigade de Marine,* of the enemy on June 25, 1918, and the Third Brigade capturing Vaux on July 1, 1918. While the Second Division was advancing in this part of the Chateau-Thierry Salient, the Third American Division on the right of the Second was holding the line around Chateau-Thierry, and also about the middle of June had one battalion in Belleau Wood for a few days.

These brilliant successes of the Second Division coupled with the splendid work of the Third Division closer to Chateau-Thierry on their right, and coming close after the capture of Cantigny by the First Division had a remarkable psychological effect, restored the morale of the French and set an example to be followed by the Fighting Americans in their work yet to be accomplished. For their work in these engagements the Marines and the other elements of the Second Division received high commendation.

On July 18, 1918, the counter-offensive of Marshal Foch, long and anxiously waited for by the civilized world, was launched. The First Moroccan Division and the First and Second Divisions of American Regulars were hurriedly and secretly concentrated in the Bois de Retz, west of Soisson, and early on the morning of July 18, 1918, made a successful surprise attack without artillery preparation but with a barrage. This was officially termed the Aisne-Marne Offensive and the Marine Brigade was in line for two days, July 18 and 19, 1918.

The next entry into the front lines was in the Marbache Sector, near Pont-a-Mousson on the Moselle River, where they remained from August 9 to 16, 1918.

From September 12 to 16, 1918, the Marines as a part of the Second Division assisted in eliminating the St. Mihiel Salient.

Officially the capture of the Blanc Mont Ridge and St. Etienne, north of Somme-Py, by the Second Division, and the fighting of the Second and Thirty-Sixth Divisions in that vicinity is officially called Argonne-Meuse (Champagne), and the Marines were in that sector from October 1 to 10, 1918. Some believe that the brilliant capture of Blanc Mont Ridge was the greatest achievement of the Second Division and of the Marines during the War. Truly it rivals the record of the Marines in Belleau Wood.

Then came the final fighting of the war, the Argonne-Meuse Offensive. The first phase of this immense operation began late in September, 1918, but the Marines with the remainder of the Second Division, being engaged in subduing the Boche around Blanc Mont, did not enter this operation until November 1, 1918. From that date until the Armistice became operative on November 11, 1918, the Second Division was engaged and the Marines did their share. The last achievement of the Marines and the Second Division was the crossing of the Meuse River under heavy fire.

The Marine Brigade, as a part of the Second Division formed a part of the Third Army and marched with it on its now historic march to the Rhine. After crossing the Rhine the Marines remained in Germany as an element of the Army of Occupation until July, 1919, when they started homeward-bound, arriving at Hoboken, in August, 1919.

Major General George Barnett, Commander U. S. Marine Corps.

Major General John A. LeJeune, Commander 2nd Div. A. E. F.

Brigadier General W. C. Neville, Commander 4th Marine Brigade A. E. F.

Le Thiolet Eastern Boundary, U. S. Marines June 1st.

La Loge Farme, Brigade Headquarters.

Dugout at La Loge Farme.

Where the 5th & 6th Marine Galleys were stationed during Belleau Fighting.

The Mairie Montreiul Aux Leons Brigade Headquarters June 1st.

Issonge Farm—General Harboord's P. C. June, July, '18.

The Pyramid near Belleau Woods.

Colonel W. C. Neville's P. C. 5th Regiment near Marigny.

P. C. 5th & 6th Marines at La Voie du Chatel during Belleau Fight.

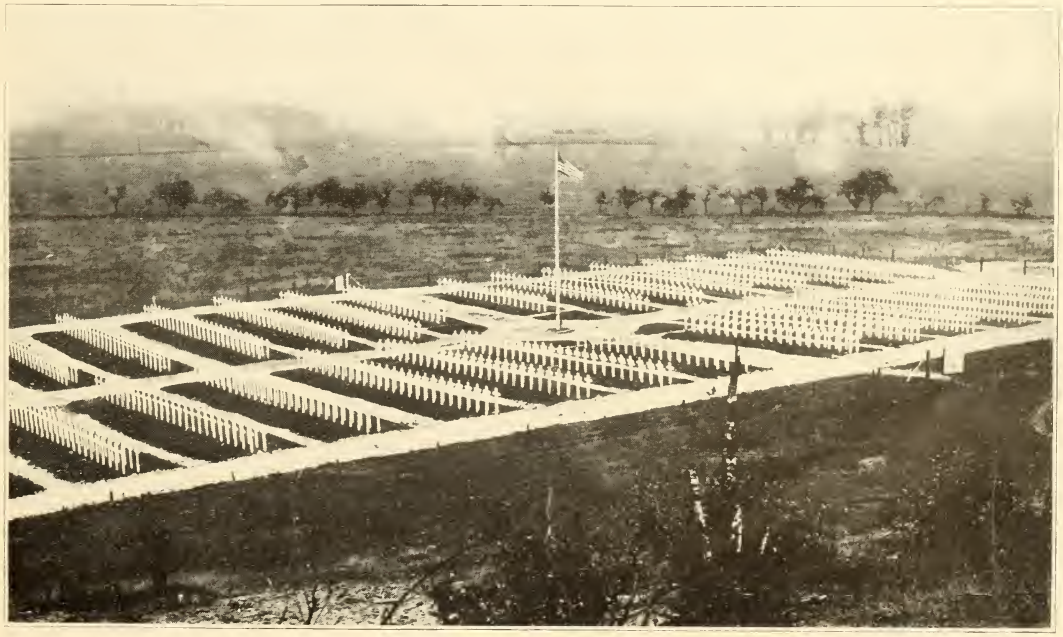
P. C. of Colonel A. W. Catlen La Voie du Chatel, Lucy Road.

Bois D. Belleau and Woods, N. W. of Lucy.

Lucy La Bocage P. C. Major Shearer, 1st Bn. 6th Reg.

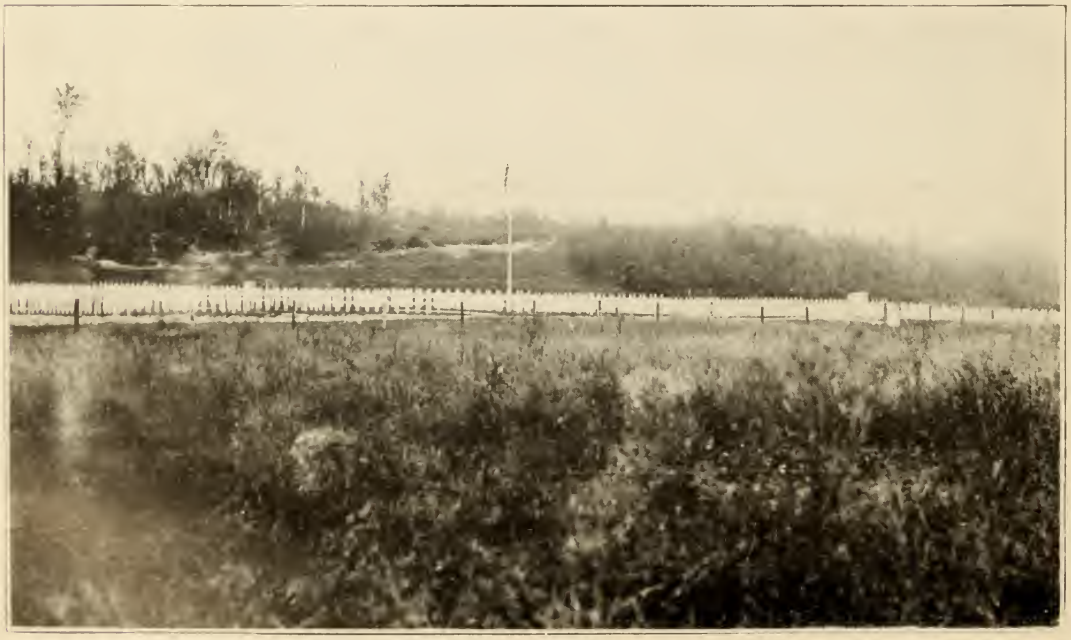
Ruined Church Lucy La Bocage.

Culvert under Lucy, Bouresches Road Marine dressing station.



American Military Cemetary Belleau Woods.

Hunting Lodge and Observation Post Belleau Woods.



American Military Cemetery, Belleau Woods in back-ground.

The Railroad station Bouresches.

Part of Bouresches nearest enemy—Bois du Belleau in rear.

View of Bouresches as seen by the enemy.

Main square Bouresches.

Bois du Belleau showing wheat field in foreground.

Grand Mongivrault Farm used by 2nd Bn. 6th Marines in June, '17.

Lucy La Bocage.

Regimental Aid Station 6th Marines June, 1918.

Maison Blanche 6th Regimental P. C. June, 1918.

View of Bouresches from Triangle Fme.

Lucy—The ravine St. Gobert in foreground.

Ridge on right taken by 1st Bn. 5th Marines, June 1st.

Les Mares Fme., held by 1st Bn. 5th Reg.

View of Champillon.

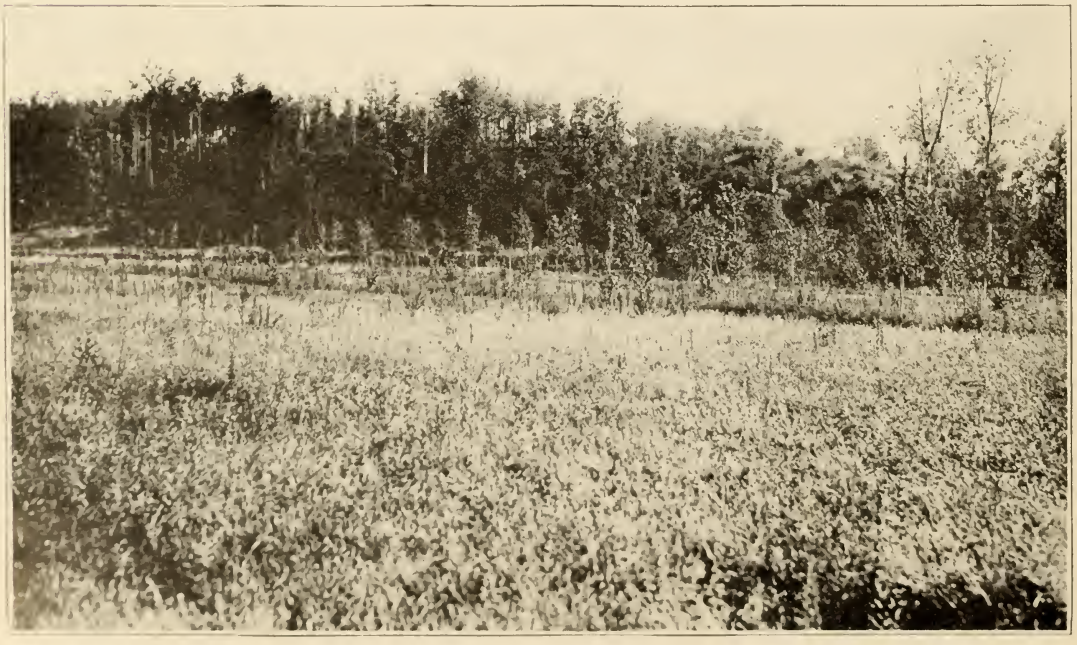
Open wheat field across which 1st Bn. 5th attacked June 6th.

The same wheat field looking more to the left.

Where the 49th Company attacked June 6th.

Woods at left of Brigade which was strong enemy Machine Gun Position.

No man's land from Hill 142.



Hill 142 as seen by the enemy.

Looking North East at Bois de Belleau.

Ground over which 96th Company advanced toward Bouresches.

Same as preceding picture, Bouresches in background.

Major Holcomb's P. C. 2nd Bn. 6th Reg., June 6, '18.

Bouresches as seen by enemy.

Looking South West at Suippes (Champagne Front).

Where the 6th Reg. Lay in reserve South West of Suippes.

Where the 5th Reg. Lay in reserve North West of Suippes.

P. C. of Brigadier General W. C. Neville Trenches North of Suippes

Looking North West at Somme Py.

A Marine P. C. in Champagne.

Looking North West at the Essen Hook.

A close up of Essen Hook.

Looking North at Blanc Mont Ridge.

Another View of Blanc Mont Ridge.

Enemy Dugout on Blanc Mont.

Enemy Pill boxes captured on Blanc Mont.

View from observation Post used by Marines on Blanc Mont.

Aix from left of Marine Sector, Verdun Front.

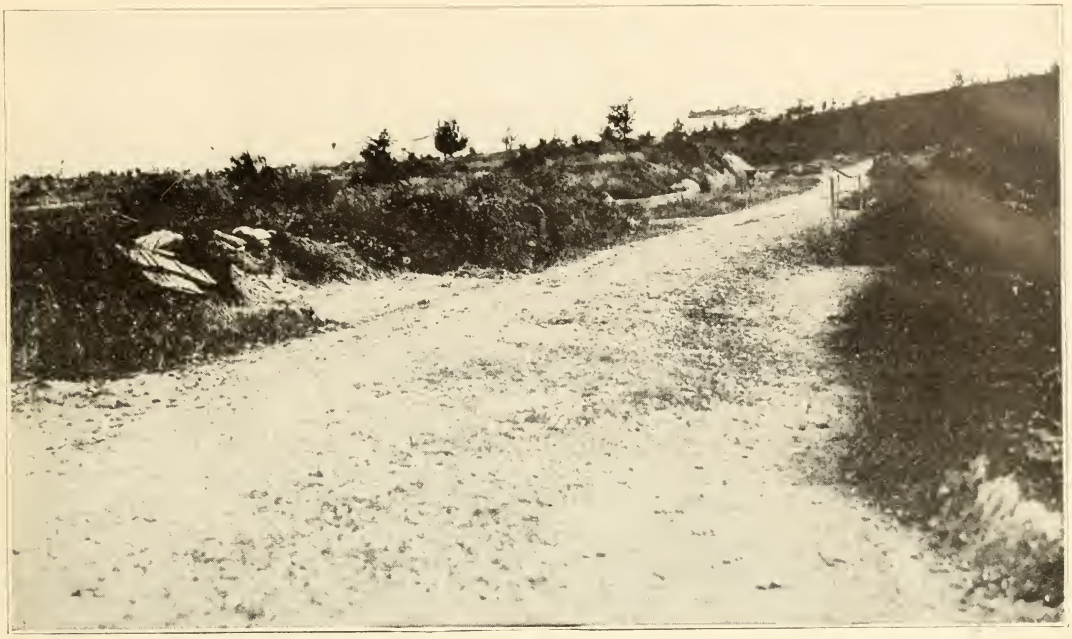
Looking South at Moulainville, Verdun Front.

Chatillon-Sur-Les-cotes, Verdun Front.

The ruined Chateau, Watronville Verdun Front.

Watronville from Marine Observation Post.

The ruins of Ronvaux, Verdun.



Looking South toward Haudemont (Verdun).

Looking North at the ruins of Haudemont.

Villers-Sons-Bouchamp, Verdun

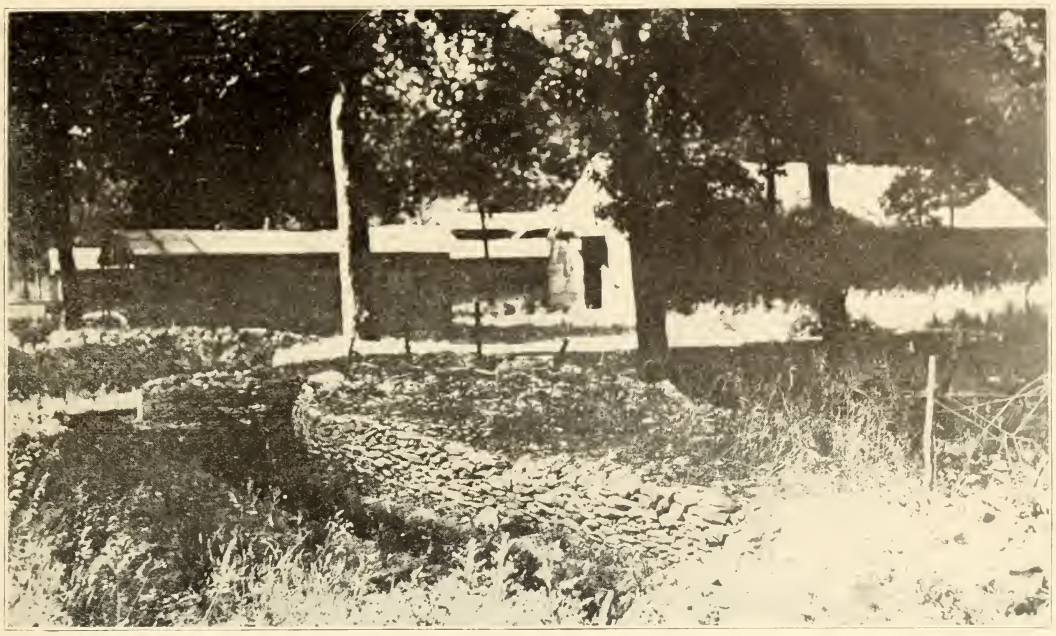
The Outpost town of Bouzee, Verdun.

Cote-des-Hures held by 6th Reg. (Verdun).

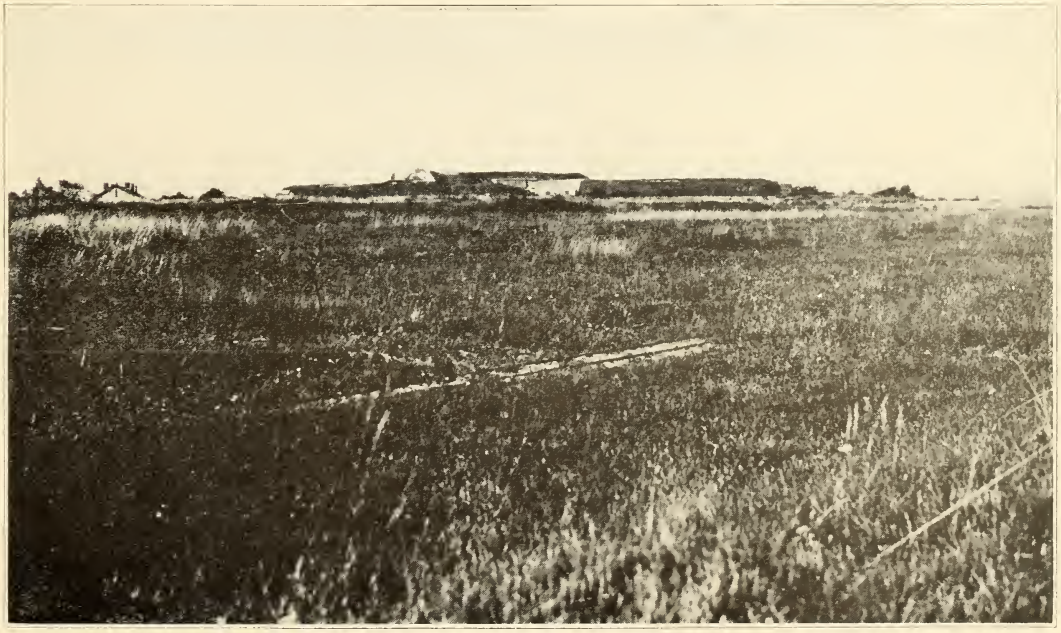
Tressavaux (Verdun)

Montgirmont (Verdun) held by 5th Reg. Marines.

P. C. Moscow Camp Chiffoure.

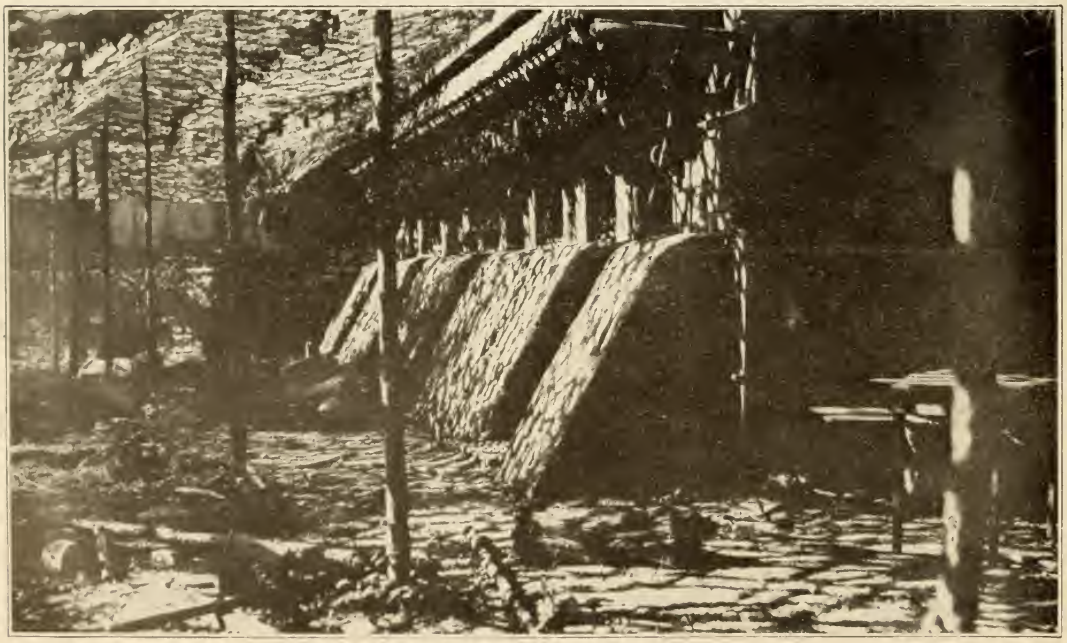


Camp de Marquenterre (Verdun)



Fort du Rozellier (Verdun).

P. C. Faget 5th Marines (Verdun).

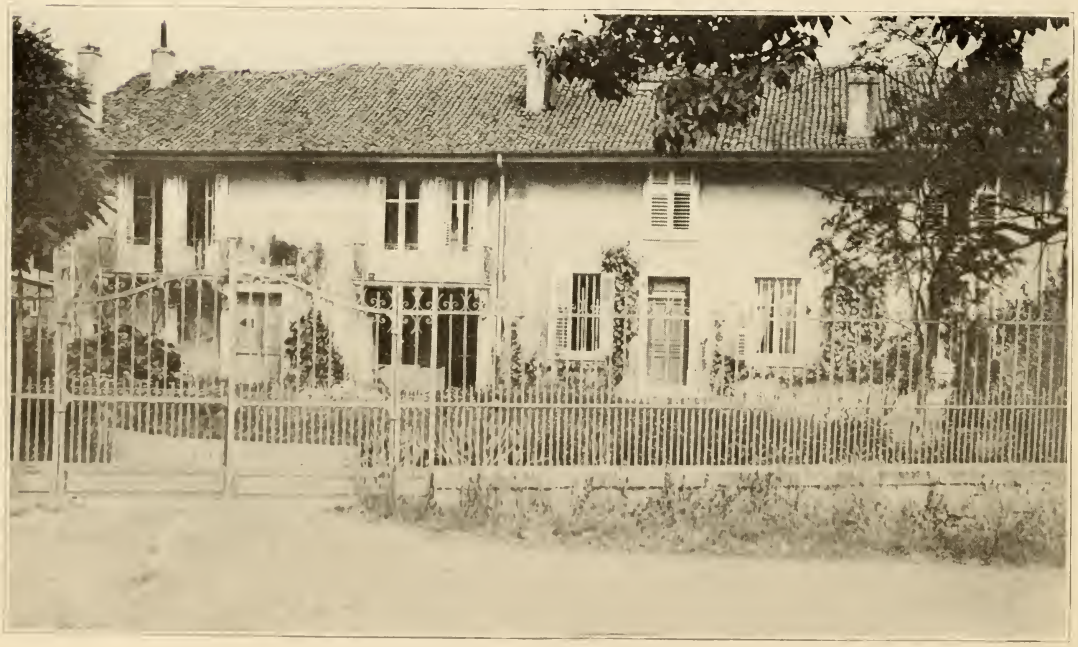


P. C. Tunis 5th Marines (Verdun).

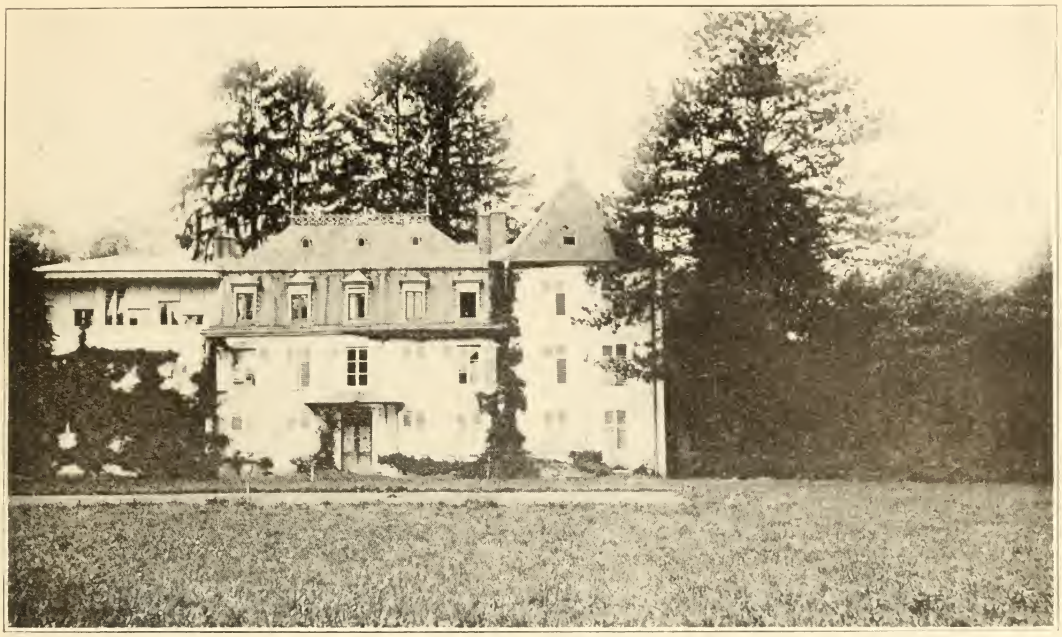
A Regimental P. C. (Verdun).

Fort Moulainville (Verdun).

P. C. 6th Marines Dieulouard Pont-A-Mousson.



P. C. of Commanding General at Scarponne.



P. C. 2nd Bn. 6th Reg.

Maison Ganthier, Enemy, Machine Gun Position.

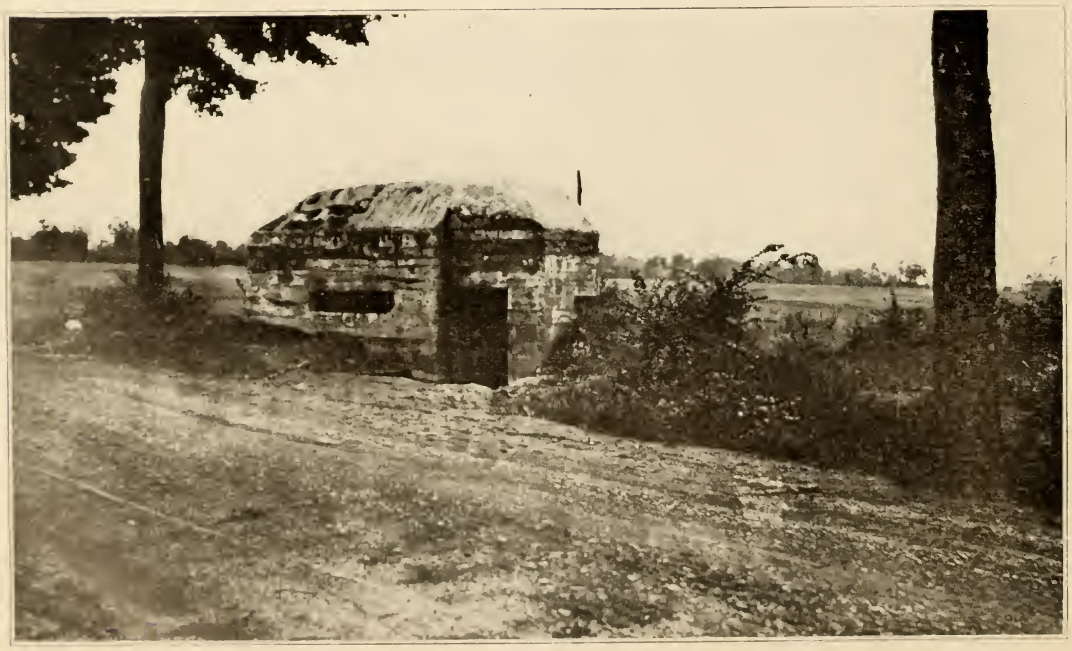
Position held by 55th Company.

Trenches of 6th Marine Jump off in foreground—Limey in distance (St. Mihiel Front).

P. C. of Colonel Harry Lee, 6th Reg. Hqrs., September 12th.

Lironville where 5th Marines entered trenches.

Showing line of advance from Limey.



German Pill Box Regneville, Thiacourt Road.

Thiacourt.

Brigade Headquarters, Thiacourt.

Jaulny occupied by 5th Reg. Marines.

Remenaville.

Xammes, left of St. Mihiel Sector.

Boche M. G. Nests in course of Construction near Xammes.

Farthest point of advance, St. Mihiel Sector.

The Mairie Thiacourt P. C. 6th Reg.

American Military Cemetery, Thiacourt.

Looking from cemetery towards Thiacourt, showing Line of Advance.

P. C. 3rd Bn. 6th Reg., Thiacourt Jaulny Road.

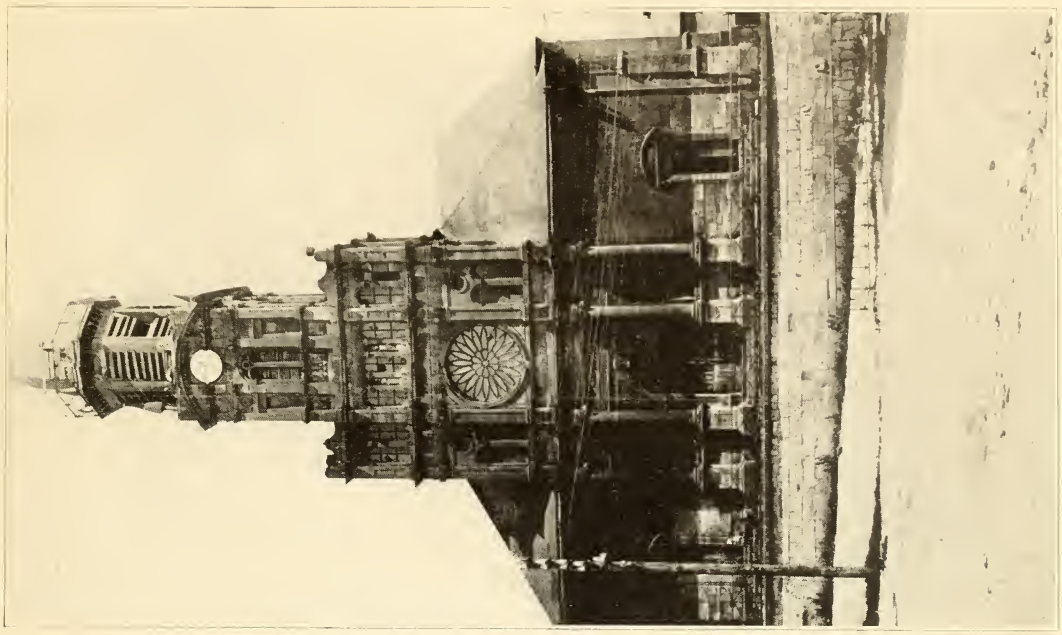
Bois de La Montagne held by 5th Marines.

Les Isletts where Marines unloaded from trucks for Argonne offensive.

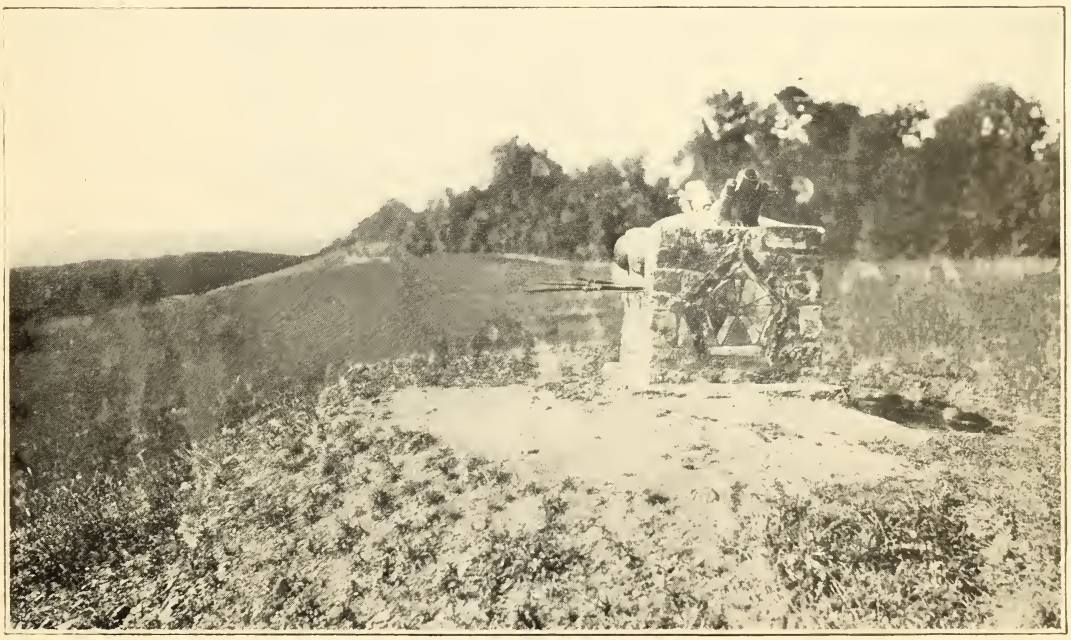
Mouzon on the Meuse.

Moulins in distance, reached by 5th Reg. November 10-11.

Looking up the valley of the Meuse.

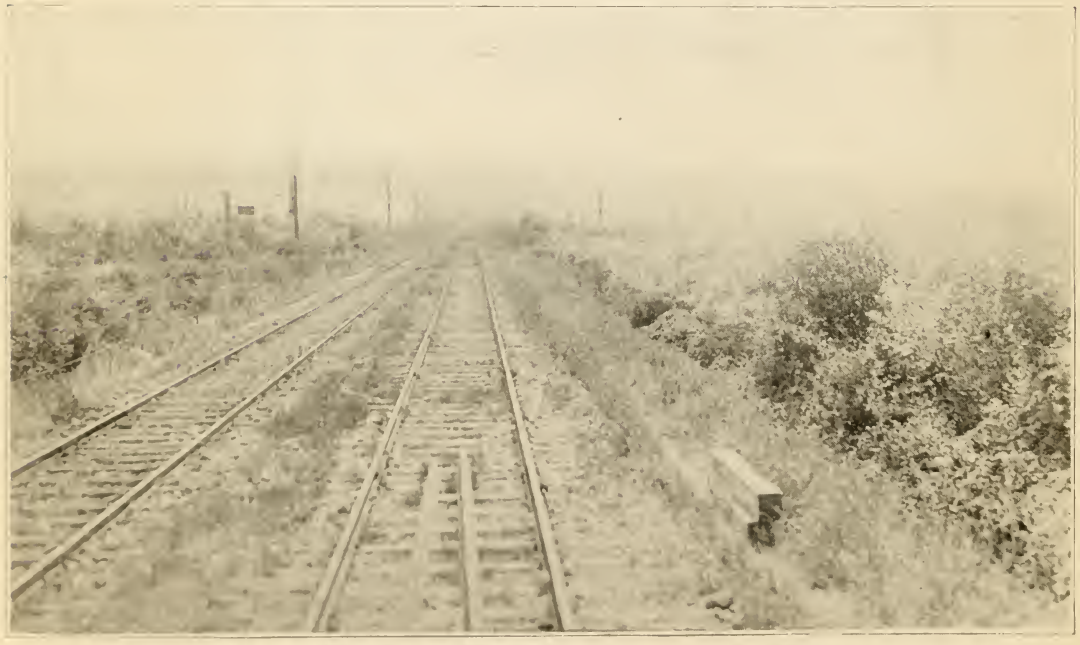


Church at Beaumont Meuse used as a Marine dressing Station

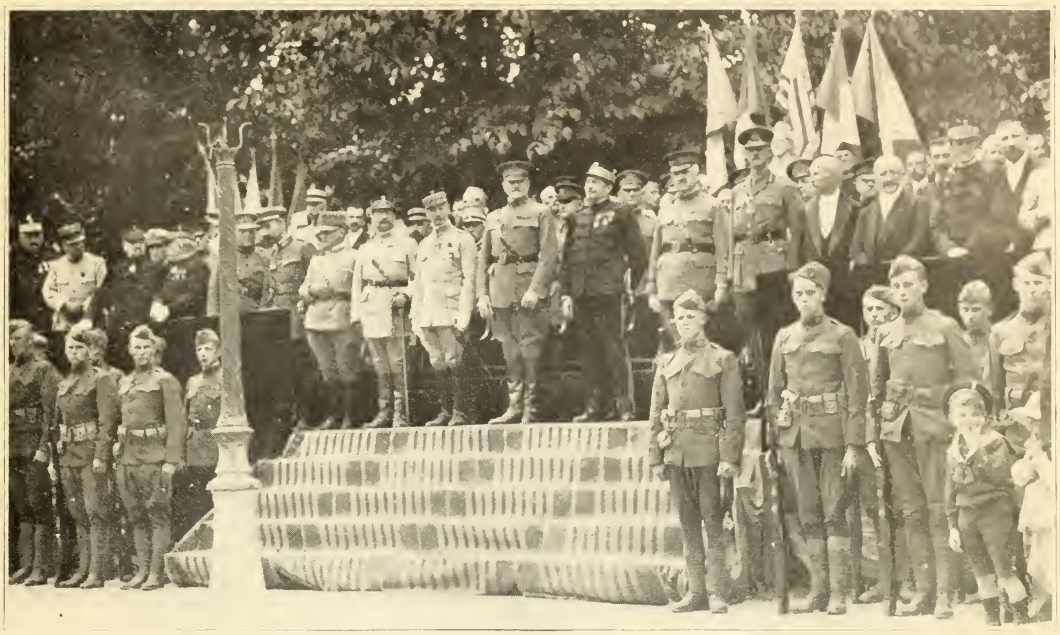


Monument erected by 5th Army Corps showing farthest Point of advance, Nov. 11th.

Donegal Farm taken by 1st Bn. 5th Reg., Night of November 10th.

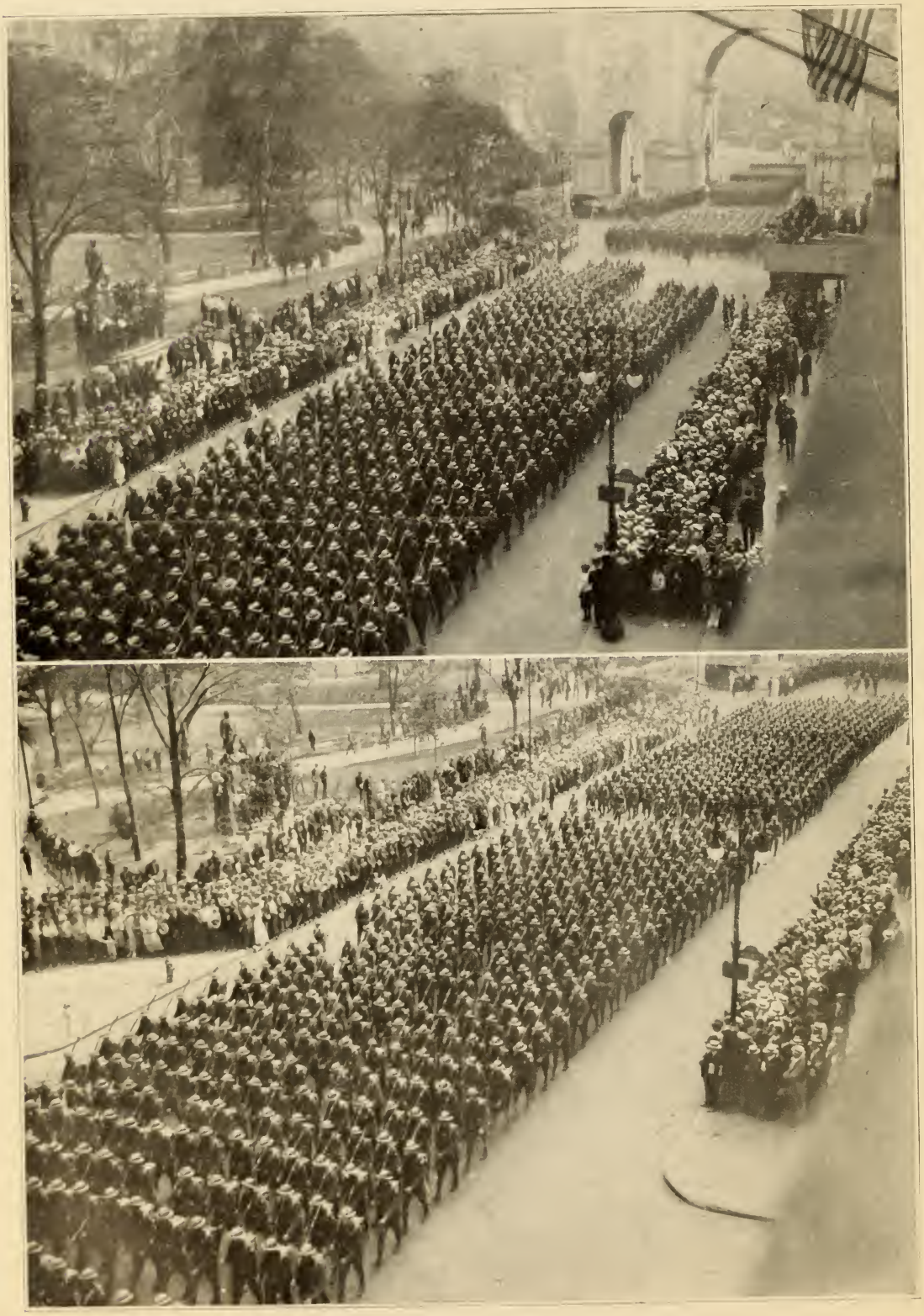


Looking down railroad tracks, line of Marine advance.



Pershing's Marine Honor Guard, Chamont, France.

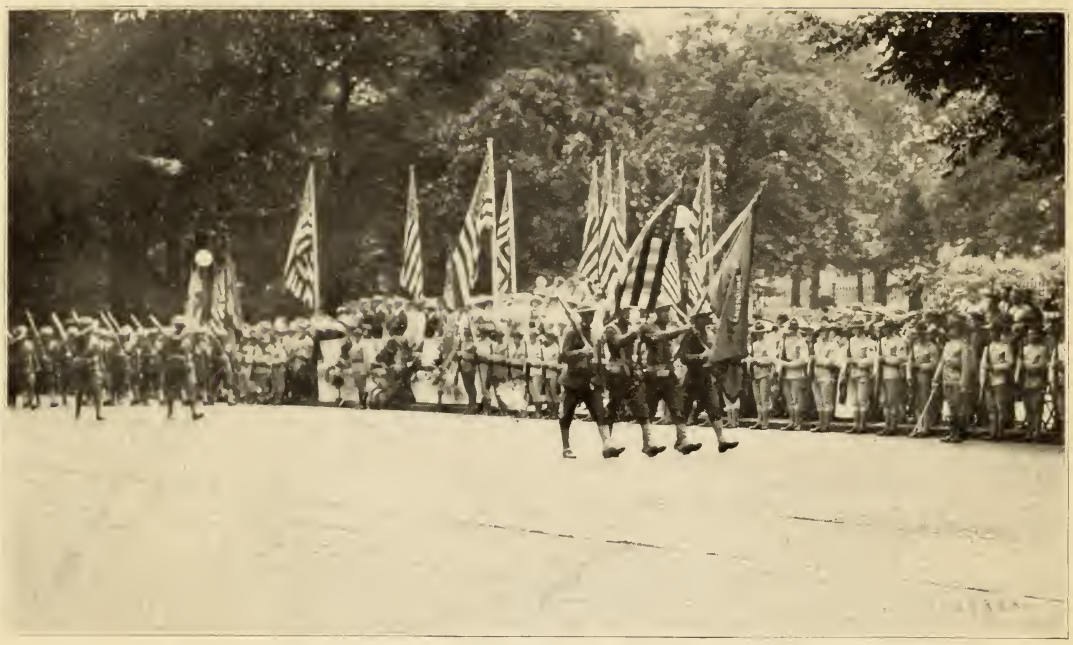
General Le Jeune leading the New York Parade.



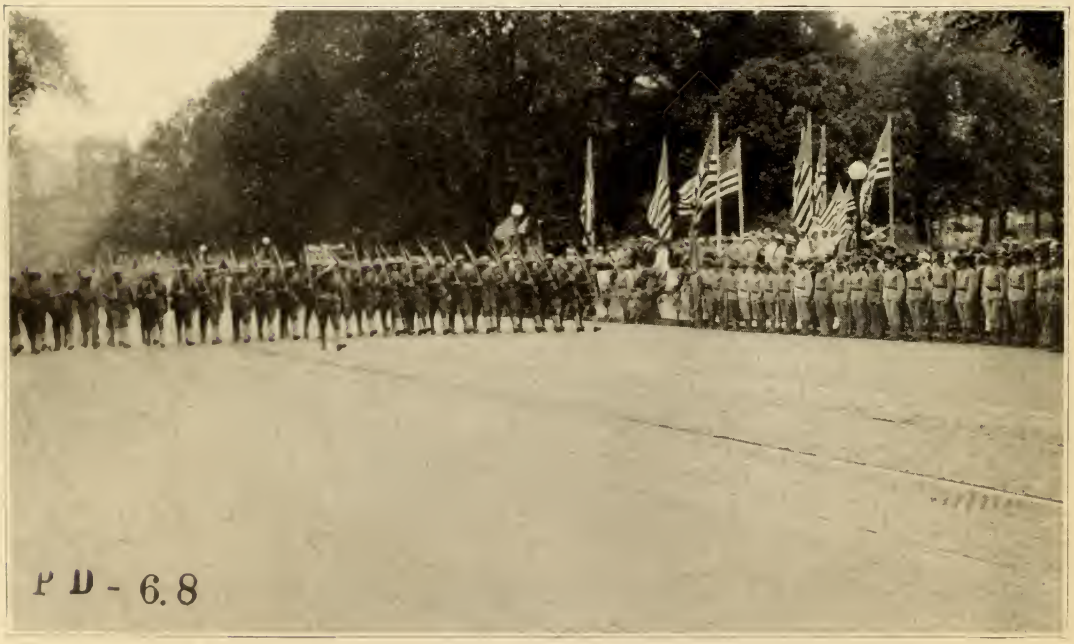
5th & 6th Marines Parading down 5th Avenue, New York.

Brigadier General W. C. Neville in the Washington Parade.

Brigadier General W. C. Neville's staff, Washington.



Regimental colors passing reviewing stand.



Marines passing in review (Washington).

The President reviewing the 4th Marine Brigade.

Quantico.

Close View, Bouresches as seen by enemy.

A Bn. H. Q., Belleau Front.

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